

Senate Joint Resolution No. 17

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 76

Senate Joint Resolution No. 17—Relative to the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 16, 2012.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 17, Corbett. Coastal resources: San Francisco Bay.

This measure would declare the Legislature's endorsement of S. 97 and H.R. 3034, and would urge the United States Congress to enact the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act at the earliest possible time.

WHEREAS, San Francisco Bay is the largest estuary on the west coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco Bay is an ecologically rich and productive estuary, but its ecological values have declined significantly as a result of physical alteration and pollution over the past 160 years; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco Bay is the hub of commercial activity and is home to the third largest commercial port on the west coast of the United States, has three international airports, and is vital to the economic vitality of California and of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Low-lying developed areas along the shore of San Francisco Bay, such as Silicon Valley, contribute immeasurably to the economic vitality of California and the United States; and

WHEREAS, The sea level rose approximately eight inches in San Francisco Bay between the years 1900 and 2000; and

WHEREAS, The California Ocean Protection Council estimates the sea level will rise an additional 14 inches by the year 2050 and will rise to 55 inches by the year 2100; and

WHEREAS, A one meter sea level rise would threaten commercial, residential, and industrial structures around San Francisco Bay valued at \$48 billion (in year 1990 dollars); and

WHEREAS, A 1.4 meter sea level rise will put 480,000 people living in coastal California at risk of a 100-year flood event, given the size of the population (in year 2000). Populations in San Mateo and Orange Counties are especially vulnerable. In each, an estimated 110,000 people are at risk. Large numbers of residents (66,000) in Alameda County are also at risk; and

WHEREAS, Nearly \$100 billion (in year 2000 dollars) worth of property along California's coast, measured as the replacement value of buildings and contents, is at risk of flooding from a 100-year event with a 1.4 meter

sea level rise if no adaptation actions are taken. An overwhelming two-thirds of that property is concentrated on San Francisco Bay; and

WHEREAS, Building or strengthening levees and seawalls simply to protect existing high value development along the San Francisco Bay shoreline was estimated to require an immediate capital investment of approximately \$1 billion (in year 1990 dollars) and would require an additional \$100 million per year in ongoing maintenance; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Estuary Partnership, part of the National Estuary Program of which the State of California is an official partner and sponsor, developed a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for San Francisco Bay in 1993 that, among other programs, recommended a large-scale restoration of San Francisco Bay wetlands to restore the estuary and improve flood protection of the developed shoreline; and

WHEREAS, The largest coastal wetland restoration program in the nation has been underway in San Francisco Bay since 1993; and

WHEREAS, Restoration of San Francisco Bay wetlands can dramatically improve the effectiveness of flood management efforts in San Francisco Bay by performing the functions of manmade structures in key locations; and

WHEREAS, Restoration of San Francisco Bay wetlands can dramatically reduce the costs of providing flood protection for the developed shoreline by supplanting the need for manmade structures in key locations; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco Bay wetlands will provide more effective flood protection benefits the more quickly they are restored; and

WHEREAS, California Senator Dianne Feinstein has introduced S. 97 and California Congresswoman Jackie Speier has introduced H.R. 3034, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act, to provide federal matching funds to accelerate the restoration of San Francisco Bay's wetlands for, among others, the purpose of adapting to ongoing sea level rise; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature endorses S. 97 and H.R. 3034, and respectfully urges the United States Congress to enact the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act promptly; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.